

SENATE BILL 1356  
By Bryson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following new, appropriately designated section:

49-6-\_\_\_\_.

(a) Students enrolled in private, non-public or church related schools recognized by § 49-50-801 shall not be prohibited from participation in extra-curricular activities, sponsored by or engaged in by public schools, including, but not limited to, high school athletics and athletics teams, music, art and drama.

(b) If a child is a student in a private, non-public or church related school which does not offer an extra-curricular activity which is offered by the public school in the district where the affected student resides, that student shall be permitted to participate in the extra-curricular activity of the public school to which the affected student would otherwise be zoned to attend, provided:

(1) That the student pay any participation or activity fee in an amount equal to the fee charged to public school participants, and

(2) That the student adheres to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team or activity; and

(3) That the student adheres to the same academic standards as other participants of the team or activity with those standards confirmed by a transcript provided by the private, non-public or church related

school to the public school providing the activity in which the student shall participate.

(c) Students participating in home schools as provided by § 49-6-3050(b) shall be permitted to participate to the same degree as those students discussed in subsection (b) above, provided, however, that the students must adhere to the provisions of subdivisions (1) through (3) and, further, must be registered with the local education agency in the district where they reside in accordance with § 49-6-3050.

(d) No public school team or group shall be impeded from competing against any other public, private, non-public or church-related school's team or group merely because the school's team or group utilizes students as provided above in subsections (a) through (c) above.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.